

Operations - Regulatory (2010-05299-WMS)

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

DATE: May 14, 2013

Subject: Gogebic Taconite, LLC

1. OP-R (Sande) participated in a site visit with representatives from Gogebic Taconite (GTAC) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) staff on May 14, 2013. The purpose of the site visit was to review 13 proposed exploratory drill locations and 4 bulk sampling sites located in parts of Sections 31, 32, and 33, T. 45N., R. 1W, Section 5 and 6, T. 44N., R. 1W., Iron County, and Section 1, T. 44N., R. 2W., Ashland County, Wisconsin.
2. The 13 proposed exploratory drill sites are located within previously disturbed existing forest roads and log-landing areas. The area occupied for each drill area would be approximately 25 feet wide by 50 feet long to accommodate a truck and trailer mounted drilling machine used to drill a 2.36-inch diameter hole to collect rock samples. The site review revealed wetlands and waterways (ephemeral, intermittent and possibly perennial streams) as well as areas of unconfined overland flow in areas within the access roads.
3. The bulk sampling sites are also located in upland areas where prior sampling had taken place. GTAC explained that the purpose of the locating the proposed sites adjacent to previously sampled site is so that the data could be compared. The bulk sampling would require the excavation of 300-400 tons of material that would be trucked off site. Approximately 20 dump trucks loads of rock material would be hauled from each bulk sampling site. Access to and from the bulk sampling sites would occur on existing roads.
4. OP-R pointed out numerous wetlands and waterways appear to be located within and adjacent to existing access roads and recommended that that wetlands and waterways be delineated in any areas where disturbance may occur.

Bill Sande
Project Manager
Hayward Field Office